

REMARKS

Claims 34 and 35 were rejected in the Office Action as allegedly being unpatentable over Doble et al. in view of Novo Nordisk and Sandyk.

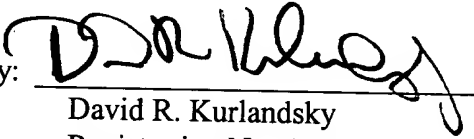
Claims 34 and 35 have been presented and are directed to methods of alleviating stuttering, motor tic, clonic stuttering, dysfluency, speech blockage, dysarthria, Tourette's Syndrome or logospasm in a subject in need thereof, the method comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of pagoclone, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. Doble et al. does not teach the use of pagoclone to treat stuttering, motor tic, clonic stuttering, dysfluency, speech blockage, dysarthria, Tourette's Syndrome or logospasm. Novo Nordisk and Sandyk have been cited in the Office Action to provide a mechanistic basis for the use of certain compounds to treat stuttering. However, neither Novo Nordisk nor Sandyk specifically states or suggest that the compound pagoclone can be used to treat stuttering. Moreover, it is not apparent from Novo Nordisk or Sandyk that a chemical compound could be used to treat stuttering even if the proposed mechanism is correct. For example, the title of Sandyk document is "Resolution of Dysarthria in Multiple Sclerosis with Weak Electromagnetic Fields." There are many examples in the literature where a mechanistic basis for a disease is proposed, but compounds that are known to play a role in the proposed mechanism do not show any therapeutic effect. It would indeed be wonderful if once a mechanism is proposed (provided that the proposed mechanism is correct) that a treatment could immediately be envisioned. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Thus, the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to the use of pagoclone to treat stuttering since there is no reasonable expectation that the particular compound pagoclone could be used to treat stuttering. A reasonable expectation of success is one of the basic considerations in determining obviousness or not. See MPEP, 8th Edition, Chapter 2141, page 2100-114, under the title "Basic Consideration Which Apply to Obviousness Rejections", specifically, point (D) which states: "Reasonable expectation of success is the standard with which obviousness is determined." All that the Examiner has done is made a case for "obvious to try", which is not the standard for obviousness, as the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has made clear. See, for example, *Gillette Co. v. S.C. Johnson & Son*, 16 USPQ2d 1923 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Thus,

the use of pagoclone to treat stuttering, motor tic, clonic stuttering, dysfluency, speech blockage, dysarthria, Tourette's Syndrome or logospasm is not obvious over Doble et al. in view of Novo Nordisk and Sandyk, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant believes that in view of the remarks made above, claims 34 and 35 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 34 and 35 is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any over payment in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 23-0455.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
David R. Kurlandsky
Registration No. 41,505
Warner-Lambert Company LLC
2800 Plymouth Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Tel.: (734) 622-7304
Fax: (734) 622-1553